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DEMOCRATIC

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JOINT ACTION NOW

East German Parliament Appeals to M.P.s

The members of the East German Parliament appealed on April 16th to their colleagues in the British House of Commons to join in a great campaign against the nuclear armament of the West German Army.

"It is not yet too late for joint efforts to prevent nuclear war" the appeal stated.

Here is the text of the appeal, which was unanimously approved by the members of the People's Chamber, the Parliament of the German Democratic Republic:

Adenauer: "Why all the fuss? It's a traditional German weapon"

("Trybuna Ludu" Warsaw)

East German Parliament Appeals to House of Commons

"At a critical moment the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic appeals to you as the elected representatives of your people. The majority of the Parliament of the West German Federal Republic has voted for the equipment of the Federal Army with nuclear weapons. This decision has greatly increased the danger of atomic warfare in Europe . . .

"Above all the decision of the Federal Parliament is directed against the proposal to establish an atom-free zone in Europe, which, controlled and guaranteed by the Great Powers, would be a step towards general disarmament, and which would free the peoples of Europe from the fear of atomic death.

"The decision of the Federal Parliament would place the most frightful weapons of mass destruction in the hands of generals of Hitler's fascist army. Your country is still bleeding from the wounds inflicted in the Second World War, which was launched by the German fascists and militarists. The ruins still speak of the fascist war crimes, and women and children still mourn for those who died in the Second World War. But the majority of the Federal Parliament decided to place atomic weapons in the hands of those who caused this suffering. This means a renewed and even more serious threat to the lives and the wellbeing of the people of your country . . .

"In view of the new great danger created by the decision of the Federal Parliament, the

(cont. on next page)

People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic appeals to you to make all efforts to prevent this decision being implemented. In West Germany today there is a strong movement against atomic death, and against the equipment of the Federal Army with atomic weapons. People of the most varied political opinions and of different classes have come together to fight against this danger which threatens all men. The People's Chamber appeals to you to support this movement by your clear rejection of the atomic armament of West Germany.

"The People's Chamber appeals to you as the elected representatives of a state which is directly threatened by the atomic armament of West Germany, and which would be most seriously endangered by its geographical position in the case of nuclear war.

"We, the elected representatives of the first really peaceable and democratic state to be established on German soil turn to you, since your country suffered much in the Second World War, and because we believe that we must coordinate our efforts to prevent a nuclear war.

"We, the members of the People's Chamber, believe that it is not yet too late, and that it is possible to prevent, by joint efforts, the threatening aggression of German imperialism."

Identical appeals were addressed by the People's Chamber to the parliaments of Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Holland, Norway, Austria, Poland and Czechoslovakia, and similar appeals with a slightly different wording were sent to the parliaments of Sweden and Switzerland, which were neutral in the Second World War.

A-ARMING HAS BEGUN IN W. GERMANY

Prime Minister Grotewohl's Government Statement

Addressing the East German Parliament on April 16th, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl outlined his government's policy of opposition to atomic arms for either German state, and reiterated support for the creation of an atom-free zone in Europe. Here are some of the main points from his speech:

"If Herr Adenauer were really in earnest about disarmament and relaxation of tension he would put a stop to atomic arming of the Federal Army. But the reactionary majority in the Federal Parliament decided otherwise. They succeeded on March 25th in drawing West Germany completely into NATO atomic armament.

"American atomic guns and rockets have long been stationed in West Germany and the German monopolists, in cooperation with France and Italy, are now trying to start production of weapons of mass destruction in the Federal Republic itself. The Federal Army is to be equipped with these weapons. This has created a frightful danger for European peace.

"We call on the entire German people and warn them urgently against the horrifying results of an atomic war such as is being planned by the German imperialists and militarists. Atomic weapons in the hands of the mass murderers of yesterday could mean atomic death for millions of people in Germany and in the whole of Europe.

"Only yesterday ruling circles in Bonn were singing the praises of the economic miracle. Today everyone can see that this is leading to disaster. Hitler also set out to achieve a so-called economic healing of Germany; but it ended in the catastrophe of the Second World War. The enormity of what the German imperialists and militarists are offering the German people today bears no resemblance to the Second World War. Six hydrogen bombs would be enough to turn the whole Federal Republic into a desert.

. . . "The circle of atomic powers is comparatively small today; but agreement on disarmament is nevertheless difficult. If West Germany and other imperialist states, therefore, possess weapons of mass destruction it will be even more difficult to solve the problem through negotiations.

"West Germany and France, for instance, are now eager to speed up their joint research work in the St. Louis Atomic Research Institute, so that after successful experiments in the Sahara Desert they will be able to come forward as new atomic powers at a summit conference, thus further complicating the situation.

"Of course there has been no lack of attempts to play down the Federal Parliament decision. It is claimed that the Federal Army is only to be equipped with atomic weapons if all efforts to reach a general agreement on disarmament fail.

"In fact atomic arming of the West German NATO forces has already begun. Bonn War Minister Strauss is buying American "Matador" rockets, atomic warheads for which are stored in secret depots in West Germany. These have a range of 750 miles."

"The Bonn parliament decision and the adventurous policy of the German imperialists and militarists represent an attempt to hinder the convening and the course of a summit conference . . .

"An important measure would be the establishment of an atom-free zone, in accordance with the Polish proposal, to include both German states, Poland and Czechoslovakia . . This would first of all put a stop to atomic armament in the Federal Republic, result in immediate withdrawal of foreign atomic weapons from West Germany and halt the present threatening deterioration of the situation in Europe and Germany. Understanding between the two German states would also be made easier and favourable conditions for a peaceful solution of the German question created.

. . . "But the present policy of the Federal Republic undoubtedly means perpetuation of German division. Nobody can believe in unity between the peace-loving German Democratic Republic and a Federal Republic armed with atomic weapons. Thus the Polish plan offers perhaps the last chance to prevent a development which will slam the door on German unity for a long time to come.

. . . "The Bonn government also demands that the summit conference deal with the German question, thus blocking the solution of urgent international problems. But the German question is primarily a matter for the German people and no international conference can settle it

until the two German states have reached mutual understanding."

If effective steps were taken to reduce international tension and to introduce world-wide disarmament, a summit conference could contribute much towards understanding between the two German states. For this reason all peace-loving Germans were deeply interested in this and also in consultations on a peace treaty with Germany. The East German government welcomed the Soviet proposal that representatives of both German states take part in consultations on a peace treaty.

"It can only be a question of drafting a *single* peace treaty for the whole of Germany. It is therefore necessary to supply a partner from Germany. The only possible way would therefore be through the creation of a confederation of the two German states. An All-German Council could be created which would then be legitimated to sign a peace treaty for the whole of Germany. . . . It is thus clear that confederation is not only of decisive importance for German reunification, but also in connection with a peace treaty for all Germany.

"It is high time to create a strong united popular movement in Germany which will resist atomic armament to the utmost and fight for the creation of an atom-free zone in Europe and for a confederation of both German states.

"Declarations by the Social Democratic Party, trade unions, Free Democratic Party, and by the German scientists, as well as numerous strikes and demonstrations prove that the overwhelming majority of the West German population do reject atomic armament and are pressing for effective action against it. And the hopes which the forces of peace place in a successful summit conference give this popular movement a great impulse."

ANTI-A CAMPAIGN NEWS

On March 25th the West German Parliament voted for the atomic armament of the West German Wehrmacht. The parliamentary decision led to a great popular wave of protest, including protest strikes. Details of the first two weeks of the protest campaign were given in GERMAN REPORT dated April 11th. Here are details of subsequent developments:

April 9th: Eight thousand workers in Bremen downed tools one hour earlier than usual to march to an anti-atom demonstration in the centre of the town.

In Goeppingen 1300 industrial workers struck for one hour in protest against the atom-arming plans.

April 10th: Frankfurt City Council decided to hold a city-wide plebiscite on the question. All Frankfurt voters will be asked: "Do you agree to the equipment of armed forces on German territory with atomic weapons, and the establishment of atomic launching bases?" The City Council also decided to oppose by all means any plans to store nuclear weapons in Frankfurt.

Wiesbaden City Council ruled that no rocket bases or nuclear weapons should be established in the city area.

April 12th: Several hundred members of the Social Democratic youth organisation demonstrated in West Berlin against atomic armament. The demonstrators sat on the road in front of trams, thus holding up all traffic while they staged their demonstration. The demonstration was dispersed by batonwielding police.

April 15th: Over 5000 West Berliners, many of whom had never previously participated in any public political activity, marched for two hours through West Berlin in a protest demonstration against atomic armament initiated by young Social Democrats. Leading members of the West Berlin Social Democratic Party were amongst the demonstrators.

April 17th: All traffic came to a standstill in Hamburg as 150,000 people demonstrated against atom weapons during the afternoon. Most factories were forced to close early as all workers walked out to attend the demonstration, biggest-yet in West Germany. Cheers greeted suggestions that a general strike should be called against atomic armament.

April 20th: 1500 delegates from East and West Germany at the German Peace Congress in Leipzig called for a country-wide plebiscite against nuclear arms for West Germany. "The threatening danger can only be prevented by the joint efforts of all persons, movements and organisations in both German states which oppose the preparation of atomic war" the resolution stated.

Foreign Ministers Agree

The foreign ministers of Poland, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic reached full agreement at a conference in Prague on questions connected with the atom-free zone and relaxation of European tension. They joined in condemning the arming of West Germany with nuclear weapons.

In a joint communique issued on April 12th after a three-day meeting, the foreign ministers made the following points:

1. Nuclear armaments for West Germany will only increase tension in Europe. Re-emergent German imperialism and militarism is the main danger to peace.

2. The establishment of an atom-free zone in central Europe would be a great contribution to peace. West Germany, by rejecting the proposal, bears full responsibility for the fact that such a zone has not yet been established.

3. A summit conference would be a step forward: the three foreign ministers condemn western attempts to place subjects on the agenda which would be an intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign states. (This clause refers to American attempts to raise the question of the "liberation" of East European socialist countries, ed.)

4. The three foreign ministers welcome the Soviet decision to end nuclear tests, and hope that Britain and the United States will take similar steps.

QUEEN ANNE IS DEAD

On March 14th this year this journal criticised the fact that large sums of money were likely to be paid out to pro-nazi German princelings because of the Act of Settlement passed by Queen Anne in 1705 conferring British citizenship on all the descendants of a certain Electress Sophia of Hannover.

Many of these nominal "British subjects" recently filed applications with the British Government for "compensation" for their estates which have been nationalised in Poland.

On April 3rd, Queen Elizabeth signed a special "Order in Council" excluding these princes and dukes from any cut of the compensation.

Does Queen Elizabeth read GERMAN REPORT?

LOOKING AFTER MOTHERS

East Germany's Good Record in Maternal Care

"Women enjoy special protection at work" is not merely a clause in the constitution of the German Democratic Republic; it is anchored in two laws passed in 1950 and two decrees issued in 1951 and 1952.

Working mothers are not allowed to do work which, in the opinion of a medical officer, may endanger their own health or the health of an unborn child, for instance, lifting or carrying or shifting by hand weights exceeding 15 kg. at any time or 8 kg. during pregnancy.

Pregnant or nursing mothers are not allowed to work on night shifts or underground in the mines. Mothers get five weeks' holiday before and six weeks after delivery; post-natal leave can be extended to eight weeks after an abnormal birth. Since 1954 mothers who have given birth to premature babies can have their leave lengthened by the period which they missed before delivery. Annual holiday can also be taken after pregnancy leave if desired. For the whole period sick pay has to equal the average pay received during the previous three months. Women workers cannot be dismissed during this time.

Factories are required to provide lighter work for pregnant and nursing mothers; and nursing mothers must have two pauses of 45 minutes each during working hours for six months. If this cannot be fitted in with their work, it must be arranged for them to come later or leave earlier.

If it turns out that a woman cannot for health reasons return to her old job, lighter work must be found for her, or she must be helped to find work in another enterprise, at about the same average pay as she was last receiving.

Women with children under six years of age cannot be required to work on night shifts unless suitable arrangements for the children are available.

There are now 19 special holiday homes for pregnant women whose health is not good, with accomodation for 823 women — ie., 10,500 four-week holidays a year, free of charge.

Large families receive considerable financial assistance from the state. Lump sums of 100 marks for the third child, 250 marks for the fourth and 500 marks each for the fifth and more children are paid out at birth. Monthly allowances are paid at the rate of 20 marks for the fourth child and 25 marks each for the fifth and more children.

Special facilities are available for mothers living alone; in this category are included unmarried, widowed, divorced or permanently separated women who have to bear most of the expences of bringing up their children. There are now 26 homes with accomodation for 1,561 where such mothers can spend five weeks before delivery and six weeks afterwards.

Such mothers can also have their children cared for, free of charge if necessary, in children's homes. There were at the end of 1957 9,217 places in permanent infant's and toddlers' homes, about 60 per cent of which were maintained entirely by the state. But there are still not enough of these homes, and these mothers get first preference for their children in creches and kindergartens.

Since the law on the protection of mother and child was passed, infant mortality amongst children of unmarried mothers has also gone down sharply — although it continues to rise steadily in West Germany.

A regulation issued in January 1956 provides that working mothers living alone can stay at home to look after their children when they are sick, but not so ill as to need hospitalisation, for a total period of one month in the year, during which time they receive sick pay at the same rate as if they were themselves ill. A father, grandmother or aunt who has sole charge of children can also take advantage of this regulation.

During the First Five Year Plan period large sums were spent on building creches and kindergartens in town and country. The number of places in creches and permanent children's homes rose from 8,542 in 1950 to about 72,000 at the end of 1957. There are now about 82,000 places in seasonal creches on the land. But the Second Five Year Plan will bring a further increase of more than 20,000 places.

Places in kindergartens and weekly homes for children under three are to be increased 20 per cent to 311,000 and in afterschool clubs the increase is to be about 60 per cent, to 151,000 places.

Children cared for in these institutions cost their parents very little, since the state subsidises them generously. Parents pay for food only, and even this is scaled according to income and according to the number of children looked after.

Child care begins at birth, following medical examinations — free of cost — during the third, sixth and second half of the ninth month of pregnancy, and any other medical treatment indicated. An important result of pre-natal care is that practically no infants are now born with syphilis. Another result is that the number of mothers dying in childbirth has gone down to 11.8 per 10,000 deliveries. This is in sharp contrast to the figure of 16 per 10,000 in West Germany ("Der Tag", January 5th 1958). Constant efforts are being made to reduce this figure through rigid inspection and control of maternity homes and wards.

Since July 1954 much attention has been paid to psychoprophylaxis. 270 doctors and about the same number of maternity nurses have been trained in painless childbirth methods in the university women's clinics in Leipzig and Berlin. Successful work has also been done in Dresden.

The number of hospital deliveries rose from 56.5 per cent in 1953 to 76.9 in 1956.

Infants receive BCG or Calmette inoculations against TB, free of cost, during their first ten days. This is not compulsory, but inoculations have increased from 33,888 in 1953 to 188,193 in 1956. In 1954, 315 children contracted TB during their first year; in 1956 the figure was only 139.

82.2 per cent of all infants were seen in the Mothers' Advisory Centres in 1951 and 93.9 per cent in 1956. Anti-rickets treatment, an important preventive measure which now reaches practically all infants and toddlers in the Republic, begins with the first dose of Dekristol in the infants' fourth week. Mothers get advice on correct feeding, care of milk and proper use of standard powdered milk ("Babysan"), which is generously subsidised by the government.

Other preventive measures include inoculations against diphtheria, whooping-cough and lock-jaw. These measures have resulted in a drop in infant mortality in the German Democratic Republic from 13.1 per cent in 1946, to 7.2 per cent in 1950 and 4.6 per cent in 1957. In certain districts the rate is even lower. This compares sharply with the figure, quoted by the "Westphaelische Rundschau", January 11th 1958, of 9.1 per cent for the West German Ruhr district.

Merchant Marine Doubled

The merchant marine of the German Democratic Republic has been more than doubled in the past three months; but this doubling was relatively easy, since the work of building up a trade fleet has only just begun.

In December 1957 the merchant marine of the Republic consisted of just two ships, modern 10,000 ton freighters built in the nationally-owned Warnow shipyards. Now two freighters have been purchased in Belgium, and one in Holland, raising total tonnage to 50,000 tons. By 1960 it is planned that the merchant marine of the German Democratic Republic will total 200,000 tons, which will ply the seas as far afield as China.

Big Trade Pact with USSR

The German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union have concluded a trade agreement for 1958 envisaging an exchange of goods valued at over 1,500 million dollars, considerably more than the 1957 figures, it was announced in Berlin on April 13th.

For the first time the goods exchanged between the two countries will include very large quantities of consumer goods, which will help to extend the variety of such goods on the market in both East Germany and the Soviet Union.

Altogether goods valued at about 5,000 million dollars will be exchanged in the next three years.

West Germany too has just concluded a trade agreement with the Soviet Union, but the value of goods exchanged will be only about one-sixth of the East German figure.

You Ask — We Answer

CRAFTSMEN OUSTED?

"I have just seen a story in one of our papers that a new law has been passed in East Germany which entails the expropriation of small craftsmen. The story looked a bit fishy to me, but I should be glad to hear the real facts."

P. G., Sydney, Australia

The story is in fact very fishy. At the end of February this year the East German Parliament did pass a new law dealing with small craft businesses, but there was absolutely no hint of anything like expropriation in it. To make quite clear what the new law is all about, it is necessary to go back a little way in history. In 1950, the East German Parliament passed a very far-reaching law on the encouragement of small craftsmen's enterprises, such as household plumbing firms, small car repair shops, tailoring shops and so on. There are an enormous number of such small family businesses in the German Democratic Republic, and they play a useful part in the economy. In 1956, there were 237,000 such enterprises, and a total of over 800,000 people were employed in them. Nearly half of them were one-man firms.

The law of 1950 gave a big help to these small firms, largely by providing for very low taxation. As a result of the steady development of the economy of the German Democratic Republic since 1950, nearly all of these little firms prospered and flourished, with the result that their earnings increased out of proportion to the general increase in prosperity. Between 1951 and 1956 the earnings of small craftsmen increased by 78%, compared with an increase of only 46% in the earnings of factory workers.

Another phenomenon which has made itself particularly visible in the past year or two was that some of these craft firms were taking advantage of the very low rate of taxation in order to develop into small capitalist enterprises, thus losing their original character of small family businesses.

As a result of these developments, which could become a hindrance in the building of socialism in the German Democratic Republic, the Craftsman's Law has now been amended. Under the new law, the very small firms with less than three people working in them will continue to pay the old low rates of taxation. 84% of all the craft enterprises fall into this category, and there will be no change at all in their situation. The larger firms, however, employing between four and ten people (or a larger number in some specialised branches), will now fall under a new tax schedule, which will bring net income into line with general developments. These new taxes will still be well below the income tax paid by bona fide capitalist firms.

At the same time the new law makes provision for increased encouragement for craftsmen's production cooperatives, which are visualised as the ultimate form of organisation for these small firms.

It must be emphasised that the new law makes no provision of any sort for the confiscation or expropriation of small businesses.

SHORTS

The East German TV service gave the European premiere to the contemporary American opera "Sandhog" by Earl Robinson and Waldo Salt on April 13th.

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Paul Robeson, great American Negro singer, has made a half-hour film of some of his most famous songs specially for the East German TV service. The film was premiered over all East German TV stations on April 9th, Robeson's 60th birthday. The birthday was marked by more than 3000 Berliners at a meeting in East Berlin addressed by Arnold Zweig, one of Germany's greatest living writers.

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Photographs from more than 40 different countries were exhibited at East Berlin's first International Photo Exhibition, opened on April 12th. Photos in the exhibition came from as far afield as Basutoland, Ghana and Vietnam.

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Nearly 28% of the agricultural area of the German Democratic Republic is now tilled by agricultural production cooperatives, it was officially announced in Berlin in April. The total number of such cooperative farms is now 7366, compared to 6281 at the end of 1956.

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Bearded Economist Says:

"This Looks Permanent"

At the end of March and the beginning of April this year a burly British journalist, bearded like a pard, and looking for all the world as if he had just crossed Antarctica with Fuchs, made a fact-finding expedition into darkest East Germany.

He was well-equipped for the job, since he has been supplying responsible and conservative British periodicals with well-informed articles on the German scene for many years past.

He reported on his findings in the London "Economist" on April 12th. Without identifying ourselves with all his conclusions we present our readers with some extracts from his article:

Western policy towards east Germany is based on the exclusive recognition of Bonn as the only government entitled to speak for Germany — a principle interpreted with singular whole-heartedness; not only de jure recognition, but even de facto dealings, are studiously avoided.

An east German resident cannot travel to Britain on his passport, but must procure a temporary travel document in West Berlin. Agreements for trade are negotiated (when at all) by the Federation of British Industries instead of by the British Government. At a ceremonial farewell to the Russian troops departing for home last month, the western military representatives, attending as guests of the Russians, chatted informally among themselves when the east German national anthem was played.

What purpose can this theory of non-existence serve? Obviously it can annoy and inconvenience the government and ruling party; but it cannot do much more, unless the German Democratic Republic is so shaky politically and such a failure economically that, left alone, it is bound to collapse. But to judge this prospect requires an assessment, continually brought up to date, of the regime's actual state of health.

An extensive tour of east Germany this spring can lead to no other conclusion than that the east German state is not going to collapse ... Neither the western taboo, nor the economic and psychological warfare conducted from Bonn, nor its own inherent weaknesses — not even the scepticism and hostility of a large part of its own population — are preventing the German Democratic Republic from getting on its feet.

It would be misleading to depict its people as contented with their lot; they are not. But the economic improvement compared with three or four years ago is apparent at a glance in the street scene of a dozen towns, the look of the children on their way to school, the traffic on the roads, the crowds in the cafés and theatres.

... The grievances that are aired in the towns — and they are still aired very readily — are of a relative kind; in effect, everything western is considered to be superior to the products offered on the socialist market.

For very many products, this belief is well founded. Socialist television sets have small screens; socialist gearboxes wear out too quickly, for lack of hard steels; socialist coffee is old and tired and very expensive; socialist films are dreary and socialist newspapers unreadable.

These grumbles do not compare with the bitter complaints of five years ago. Bottlenecks have been overcome; industry is productive; there is plenty to eat and drink and plenty to buy with the high wages that the industrial workers can earn, or with the good salaries that are open to the technicians, managers and intellectuals so long as they are on good terms with the state.

... The source of this relative well-being is precisely the same in east as in west Germany. For all its misfortunes, east Germany was left with a pool of technical skill and of basic industrial equipment sufficient to secure it a place in the communist economic world not dissimilar to that of west Germany in the western world.

With a substantial part of the mechanical engineering industry (as well as of the chemical, electrical and optical industries) of the former German Reich, the German Democratic Republic is prospering as a supplier primarily of investment and production goods, primarily to the communist block with its insistent demand for machinery, machine tools and industrial installations.

The basic resource, as it has turned out, was the human skill. It is not only in the west that the Germans have contrived, after a period of stagnation and gloom, to re-equip their dismantled factories better than new and re-establish an urban standard of living. Labour is short; but productivity — though still well below that of west Germany — has risen as the new machines have come in. Flight to the west has probably become less attractive and has certainly been made more difficult; its volume is diminishing.

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PYLONS FOR EGYPT

By Lothar Killmer

What the Nile delta needs is electricity – to pump water into its fields, to help transform outlying salt marshes and desert into fertile land and to speed up industrialisation.

Power stations have to be built and overhead lines laid. The Egyptian government has ambitious plans and one of its helpers is the German Democratic Republic, which has taken over the construction of an important 66 kV high tension power line for a distance of 350 kilometres, with about 2,000 zinc-covered pylons, 13 open-air switch stations and 13 transformer stations. The project will have a total value of 30 million marks.

We drove to the building sites. Along the desert road to Alexandria we passed a line of heavy trucks loaded with huge crates containing 50 and 60-ton transformers made in the German Democratic Republic.

We did not stop long in Alexandria, with its glistening white house-fronts and wonderful beach road standing out against the deep blue of the Mediterranean, where the East German nationally owned INEX power line construction firm has its office and a big supply store, but drove on to the south-west, to the Nile delta, past cotton fields and thick yellow-green fields of ripening rice. Between the eucalyptus, fig and mango trees we saw buffaloes still working the old, creaking wheels which draw water from the wells, just as they have done for hundreds of years.

But these creaking wheels will soon be a thing of the past. Electricity is on the march, and machines and pumps will follow.

The road runs alongside the Mahnudiya Canal. Feluccas with their tall sails skim lightly downstream in the breeze, but they still have to be towed upstream, and the ropes bite into the straining shoulders of the towers. The work is hard. But electricity will soon be here and towing, too, will be a thing of the past when machines and electro-engines take its place.

Beyond Kafr el Dawr we could already see an endless row of 30-metre high pylons, part of the high tension line which is already completed, bringing new power to revolutionise life. There are 65 metre-high pylons on a branch of the Mahnudiya Canal, wonders of modern technical skill, standing out like filigree work against the sky – things of beauty and utility. But where the main tributaries of the Nile have to be crossed the pylons will have to be 120 metres high.

Between Atf and Edku we came up with a big car which was connected by cable to the high tension line running alongside the road. This was a power-testing car which makes elaborate tests with 150,000 volts of the completed line with its copper wires and isolators.

Here we met the Egyptian government chief inspector, Dr. M. Hobeika. He greeted us in excellent German and we asked him about the quality of the work done so far. He was very well satisfied, especially with the pylons, which he considered pleasing in form and better in quality than the pylons supplied by the West German firm of Siemens.

In Edku, where the Damanhur and Abu Hummus lines meet and one of the 13 open-air switch stations has been built, we arrived just in time to see Egyptian workers fixing the copper rope to a 30 metre-high pylon. They did this expertly, trained by our German technicians, who have already learnt enough Arabic to make themselves understood. There is one German foreman to nine Egyptian workers.

A combined open-air switch and transformer station is being built in Abu Hummus. The 50 and 60-ton transformers were already embedded in cement when we saw them.

As we drove back to Cairo in the cool of the evening I looked forward to the day when the power line would be completed, and hoped that the Egyptians would look upon it as evidence of the technical skill of workers and engineers from the German Democratic Republic.

(Abridged from "DDR — Deutsche Demokratische Republik" No. 3-1958)

NAZIS IN THE NEWS

Dr. Harry von Rosen von Hoewel, Senior State Attorney of the West German Federal Administrative Court in West Berlin.

During the nazi period Dr von Rosen was a senior civil servant in Hitler's Ministry of the Interior. In this capacity he was responsible for working out specially severe judicial methods for use in German occupied Europe. In the 1942 issue of "Deutsche Verwaltung", an almanach issued by "The Administrative Jurists Group of the National Socialist Jurists Association" he wrote a special article on this subject, stating:

"It must be the task of the new order erected by Germany in the Eastern Territories to protect Germanic construction against the dangers of Polanddom. This demands radical measures, since the entire Polish people has shown itself to be a public danger . . . The central point of the Decree on Judicial Measures against Poles and Jews in the Assimilated Eastern Territories is that Poles shall be punished with death if they commit damage to the reputation or wellbeing of the German Reich or German people . . . This paragraph gives adequate powers to deal with every offence committed by Poles, and to keep them in their proper place . . . Death sentences can be passed not only in cases where it is laid down by law, but in every case where the deed shows a particularly despicable attitude . . . There can be no question of extending to Polish accused the same legal position as is accorded to Germans . . ."

In 1957 Dr von Rosen published a legal commentary on "The Basic Law of the German Federal Republic".

Dangerous Friendship

Membership in the German-Soviet Friendship Society is equivalent to "working for the overthrow of the constitutional basis of the German Federal Republic", a West German court ruled on April 12th. On that date the Dusseldorf Provincial Court passed sentences ranging from three months to nine months imprisonment on seven leading members of the Society in West Germany.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

More news about neo-nazism in West Germany today, I am afraid. As all regular readers of GERMAN REPORT know, there are plenty of publishing houses in West Germany which do very nicely by publishing militaristic and neo-nazi literature, including such choice items as albums with photographs of all the blood-stained SS men who won Hitler's highest decorations.

My attention has just been drawn to a neat labour-saving addition to the volumes which every right-thinking fascist should have on his bookshelf. In 1944 a gentleman named Heinrich Haertle wrote a nazi propaganda book entitled "The Ideological Basis of Bolshevism, Marxism, Leninism and Stalinism". One of the main themes of this not very readable book is the old nazi theory that the Jews are behind it all. The book defined Bolshevism as "Pan-Jewish decay", and Lenin is described as a "partly-Jewish Asiatic".

This year, Herr Haertle decided to re-issue his book, but he did at least think it advisable to tone down the anti-Semitic passages. He did this on the cheap, by simply crossing out the word "Jew" wherever it occorrred, and substituting a harmless sounding word like "foreign" or "Marxist".

It probably would not be worth commenting on this little side-light on life in West Germany today if it were not for the fact that the volume has been officially recommended for study by Professor Hans Koch, director of the Eastern European Institute in Munich, a research centre which receives a considerable subsidy from the West German Government. Commenting on this recommendation, the Social Democratic newspaper "Regensburger Volkswacht" writes: "Professor Koch recommends the book as 'useful for beginners'. The example of the year 1945 should have shown us where such beginners end up. Institutes such as the Eastern European Institute should simply provide us with analyses about developments in the East, and thus help us to make our decisions ... By circulating nazi literature which provides the fatal racialist distorted picture of the East, the exact opposite will occur. This may help some modern crusaders, and may provide arguments for the policy of strength, but it can only have the most dreadful results for German policy. It is impossible to say this too emphatically."

Regular readers of GERMAN REPORT will remember the case of West German school teacher Ludwig Zind, who announced to all and sundry that the nazis had gassed too few Jews. We were the first English-language newspaper to take up this scandal in our issue dated January 3rd, and now under heavy pressure both inside and outside West Germany Herr Zind has been brought to trial.

Testifying in court, Zind admitted that he had publicly made the anti-Semitic remarks attributed to him, and went on to say that the nazis had been quite right to shut Jews up in concentration camps. "Even the Jews admit this" said Zind.

The court found Zind guilty of "insulting the dead", and sentenced him to the mild punishment of one year's imprisonment. Zind has lodged an appeal.

An interesting commentary on the case was given in the influential Hamburg newspaper "Die Welt" on April 14th. Here are a few passages from this commentary:

"The Offenburg teacher Zind made a series of angry remarks. This choleric man with the Hitler moustache and the fanatical eyes undoubtedly meant these remarks very seriously. Even in court he clung fast to his murderous anti-Semitism ...

"Will a sentence of one year's imprisonment for a hitherto unpunished official be sufficient to scare the many other Zinds who were his invisible companions in the dock? This is the question which was posed by this trial in Offenburg. In the court-room, on the streets, and in nearby cafes there were numerous Zind supporters, who registered with unconcealed pleasure every outbreak of hate on the part of their hero. When, after sentence had been passed at midnight, Zind strode from the courtroom with a proud smile on his lips, there were crowds of well-dressed ladies and gentlemen who surrounded his car, waved their handkerchiefs, and openly demonstrated their undiminished support ...

"Serious doubts about the local educational authorities were awakened by the examination of Herr Walzer, student of law, who had been a witness of the argument between Zind and the half-Jewish businessman Leiser, in which Zind had expressed his regret that the nazis had 'forgotten to send him up the crematorium chimney'. Walzer said that he found Zind's utterances unpleasant, but that he had not attached any great importance to them. He testified that he had never given any thought to the nazi 'final solution of the Jewish problem'. As one of the prosecuting attorney, Herr Ormond, said: 'This is very serious. This is the case of a young man who will soon complete his legal training, and who may himself be called upon to pass sentences in a few years time'.

"The Zinds are still amongst us. An answer must be found to the question posed by attorney Ormond: 'Will someone find the courage to draw the full consequences from this case?'."

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In this connnection I should like to remind readers that the Committee for German Unity in East Berlin has published, in English, a considerable quantity of documentary material on former nazi judges who now occupy responsible posts in the West German judicial system, and a pamphlet about the similar situation existing in West Berlin. Whe shall be glad to supply copies of the material as long as our limited supplies last.

These pamphlets will be sent free and post-free to readers who apply to
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